



Pacific Region of National Garden Clubs Convention

Friday, April 15, 2011

Gov. Jan Brewer

Thank you, and good morning everyone!

It's an honor to welcome those of you who are visiting Arizona -- and welcome to the Pacific Region of National Garden Clubs Convention.

And, a special welcome to National Garden Clubs President, Renee Blaschke -- Pacific Region Director, Sandra Ford (visiting from Idaho) and Arizona State Garden Clubs president, Sharron Luoma.

I'm told that representatives from ALL of Arizona's 39 garden clubs are participating in this convention, so let me take this opportunity to thank you for all of the scholarships you sponsor to our state universities and community colleges.

I'm proud of the fact that Arizona students have been the recipients of many Regional and National Garden Club scholarships as well.

ALL of your volunteer efforts on behalf of education -- and beautifying -- and honoring America -- from "Operation Wildflower" to The "Blue Star Memorial Program" -- are wonderful contributions to this nation.

You are true American patriots.

I'm a gardener at heart.

I love the quiet time in my yard. I look forward to feeding my flowers and fighting my weeds.

I can tell you for me, personally, working in the garden is therapy.

It is a refuge I share with hummingbirds and butterflies.

Arizona is on my mind – always -- but seeing things bloom and grow, restores and strengthens my spirit.

Over the years I've noticed a few things that gardening and governing share in common.

To grow beautiful things, you must have good seeds and provide water and sunshine; and then you have to control the weeds, spray the pests -- and run off the varmints.

And every gardener also knows that some pruning from time to time leads to greater fruit, but that pruning needs to be careful, precise and with the future in mind.

That's what I'm trying to do both as Governor ... and as a gardener.

In closing, let me leave you with the words of the poet who once wrote, "To know someone with whom you can feel there is understanding in spite of distances, or thoughts unexpressed ... that can make of this earth, A GARDEN."

So, I thank you for making the state and the nation more beautiful, thank you all for making of this earth ... A GARDEN!

Thank you.